

Reply to office action dated 12/15/04

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Applicant appreciates the Office's indication of allowability of claim 20. This communication is 5 believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the 12/15/04 Office Action.

CLAIM REJECTIONS §112

10 Claim 26 is rejected under §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 26 is cancelled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests that the §112 rejection of claim 26 be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS §102

15 Claims 1-5 and 7-13 are rejected under §102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,555,480 to Milligan et al (hereinafter, "Milligan").

Claims 1-9, 11-12, 14-19 and 21-26 are rejected under §102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,745,469 to Soik et al (hereinafter, "Soik").

20 **Claim 1** is directed to a method and is amended to recite:

- forming a plurality of slot portions in a substrate; and,
- etching a trench in the substrate contiguous with the plurality of

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slot portions to form a compound slot such that at least one reinforcement structure extends across the compound slot.

These limitations are not described or taught by the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections of claim 1
5 be withdrawn.

Claims 14 and 21 are amended to recite limitations similar to those of claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the reasons described above in relation to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections of claims 14 and 21 be withdrawn.

10 **Claims 2-13, 15-19, and 22-25** depend from allowable base claims and are allowable at least based upon the limitations of their respective base claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102/103 rejections of claims 2-13, 15-19, and 22-25 be withdrawn.

15 **Claim 20** is cancelled and its allowable subject matter is presented as new claims 27-28.

Claim 26 is cancelled without prejudice and Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejection of claim 26 be withdrawn.

20 **New Claims 27-28** are directed to the allowable subject matter of claim 20. Applicant respectfully requests allowance and issuance of claims 27-28.

20 **New Claim 29** is directed to a fluid-ejecting device forming method and recites:

- forming a plurality of fluid-handling structures over a first

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surface of a semiconductor substrate;

- removing material from the substrate sufficient to form a plurality of slot portions in the substrate; and,
- etching through at least some of the fluid-handling structures to form a generally elongate trench in the substrate which is in fluid-flowing relation with the plurality of slot portions.

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These limitations are not taught or suggested by the art of record.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance and issuance of claim 29.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 1-19, 21-25, and 27-29 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the present application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate 5 issuance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the unresolved issue.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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